

Building for the Future

Allyn and Concettina “Lee” Arnold spent their entire professional lives as teachers and administrators building a future for students. It therefore seemed natural to the Arnolds to create a trust donating a vacation beach house to the university to help fund quality teacher education for the next generation of teachers. The trust complements an earlier gift by the Arnolds to the University Center for Teacher Education (UCTE) to help support UCTE’s teacher education program in addressing contemporary and future challenges facing classroom teachers.

Although both are graduates of UCLA and USC, the Arnolds’ many years of residency in San Luis Obispo County have moved them to admire Cal Poly and its commitment to teacher education. They each spent years as junior high school teachers and as demonstration and training teachers for UCLA – Allyn in the disciplines of English and history, Concettina in science. As administrators, Concettina was a junior high school principal and later director of instruction in a Los Angeles Unified School District region; Allyn was district director of programs, K-12, for more than 33,000 gifted and talented students. Throughout their careers, teacher education was a prime focus.

Since trading Los Angeles for the Central Coast, the Arnolds have used their administrative skills productively in the community, maintaining a busy volunteer schedule. Their dedication to Cal Poly and to UCTE rests on shared beliefs and approaches to teacher education. They especially value the university’s partnerships with school districts; intensive, long-term student-teacher training at participating schools;



Allyn and Lee Arnold

Photo by Jeff Greene

master teachers in residence at Cal Poly who bring real-world experience into the classroom; and Cal Poly faculty who provide professional development for local staff.

The Allyn E. and Concettina Arnold Charitable Remainder Unitrust will further excellence in teacher education by supporting programs, planning innovative strategies, and providing professional activities for faculty and students. As educators, the Arnolds know full well how vital it is to be able to respond to the multiplying needs of local schools and changing state requirements. Their generosity and commitment will make it possible for the University Center for Teacher Education to reach the next level of excellence.

“Retirement is a myth,” says Allyn. “This is payback time in our lives. Being of service to others is the rent you pay for your room on earth.”

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